

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANT(S): Vestal

SERIAL NO.: Continuation of ART UNIT: 2881
U.S.S.N. 09/233,703 (Prior Application)

FILING DATE: Herewith EXAMINER: B. Anderson
(Prior Application)

TITLE: A TANDEM TIME-OF-FLIGHT MASS SPECTROMETER
WITH DELAYED EXTRACTION AND METHOD FOR USE

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Box Patent Application
Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to calculation of the filing fee for the above-identified continuation application, Applicant respectfully requests entry of this Amendment.

In the Specification:

Please delete the section under the heading "Related Applications" and replace with the replacement section as set forth in the attached marked up version of the amended Related Applications section to read as set forth in the replacement Related Applications section in clean form.

REMARKS

Applicant files this continuation application based on co-pending continuation-in-part application Serial No. 09/233,703, filed January 19, 1999. Applicant intends to submit a Supplementary Preliminary Amendment prior to the first substantive examination of this continuation application.

To the Specification

Applicant amends the specification under the Related Applications section to correct typographical errors and to insert the proper claim for priority and serial numbers of referenced patent applications. Applicant submits that no new matter is introduced by these amendments. In accordance with 35 U.S.C. § 1.121, attached is a marked up version of the replacement section and a copy of the replacement section in clean form.

If it is believed that a telephone conversation with Applicant's attorney would be helpful in expediting prosecution of this, the subject application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,



Michael J. Bastian
Registration No. 47,411
Attorney for Applicants
Tel. (617) 248-7102
Fax (617) 248-7100

Dated: December 17, 2001
TESTA, HURWITZ & THIBEAULT, LLP
High Street Tower
125 High Street
Boston, MA 02110

bastian7783/500.2244444-1

FOOTNOTES

MARKED UP VERSION OF AMENDED
CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS SECTION

This application claims priority to and the benefit of U.S. patent
application Serial No. 09/233,703, filed January 19, 1999, which is a
continuation-in-part of patent application Serial No. [90/020,142]
09/020,142, filed on February 6, 1998, the entire disclosures of which [is]
are incorporated herein by reference.

09/233,703

REPLACEMENT CROSS REFERENCE
TO RELATED APPLICATIONS SECTION IN CLEAN FORM

This application claims priority to and the benefit of U.S. patent application Serial No. 09/233,703, filed January 19, 1999, which is a continuation-in-part of patent application Serial No. 09/020,142, filed on February 6, 1998, the entire disclosures of which are incorporated herein by reference.

100333703-10020142